



Howrey Docket No.: 02453.0021.NPUS00  
Client Ref. No.: P109

TO AF

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/773,487 Confirmation No.: 6629  
Applicant : Merchant *et al.*  
Filed : February 6, 2004  
TC/A.U. : 2155  
Examiner : Eng, David  
Docket No. : 02453.0021.NPUS00  
Customer No. : 27194 Date: November 3, 2006

TRANSMITTAL FOR RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

*Mail Stop AF*  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants submit the following documents for appropriate action by the U.S.  
Patent and Trademark Office:

- ☒ Response to Final Office Action; and
- ☒ Return Postcard.

Applicants believe no fees are due in connection with this transmittal. However,  
if any fees are in fact due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the same to our  
deposit account number **08-3038**, referencing Howrey Docket No. **02453.0021.NPUS00**.

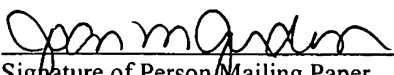
---

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
(37 C.F.R. §1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached hereto) is being deposited with  
the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an  
envelope addressed to *Mail Stop AF*, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA  
22313-1450.

November 3, 2006  
Date of Deposit

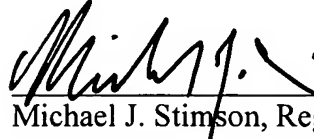
Joan M. Gordon  
Name of Person Mailing Paper

  
Signature of Person Mailing Paper

To expedite allowance of this case, the Examiner is earnestly invited to call the undersigned at (949) 721-6900.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 3, 2006



Michael J. Stimson, Reg. No. 45,429

Sarah Guichard, Reg. No. 51,506

HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LLP  
2941 Fairview Park Drive, **Box 7**  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
Facsimile No: (571) 273-8300  
Telephone No.: (949) 721-6900 (Pacific Coast)



Howrey Docket No.: 02453.0021.NPUS00  
Client Ref. No.: P109

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/773,487 Confirmation No.: 6629  
Applicant : Merchant *et al.*  
Filed : February 6, 2004  
TC/A.U. : 2155  
Examiner : Eng, David  
Docket No. : 02453.0021.NPUS00  
Customer No. : 27194 Date: November 3, 2006

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

***Mail Stop AF***

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed September 21, 2006, having a shortened-statutory response period, extending through and including November 21, 2006, kindly amend the above captioned application as follows. **All remarks herein are made without prejudice.**

Please note that this response is being filed within two months of the mailing date of the final office action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.7(a).

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Appendix A** can be found on page 13 of this paper.

---

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
(37 C.F.R. §1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached hereto) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to *Mail Stop AF*, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

November 3, 2006  
Date of Deposit

Joan M. Gordon  
Name of Person Mailing Paper

  
Signature of Person Mailing Paper